DC

14

HOUSE OF BRAINIAC 4

SUPERMAN™

WILLIAMSON
SANDOVAL
MENDONÇA
SÁNCHEZ

THE MAIN MATCH!

13+ TEEN

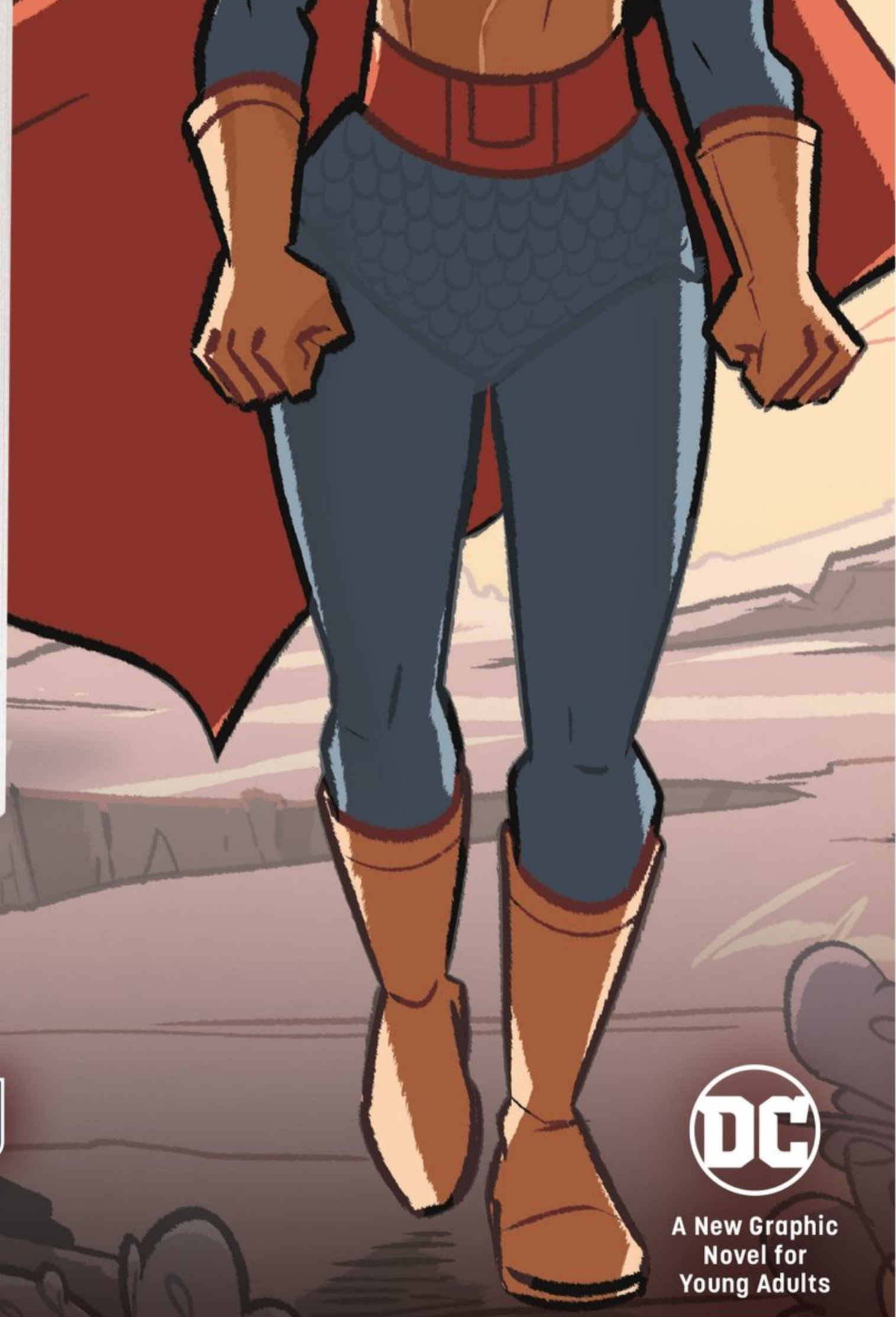
DAWN OF DC

SANDOVAL
SÁNCHEZ

Life on Apokolips is hell.
And she's ready to break free.

BARDA

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING CREATOR OF CHECK, PLEASE!
NGOZI UKAZU
DC
BARDA
"Gorgeous, sharp-edged writing, pitch-perfect characterizations, and miles and miles of heart... This one's a keeper!"
—Dione Dunne, New York Times bestselling author of So You Want to Be a Wizard



New York Times **bestselling writer and artist**

NGOZI UKAZU

tells an all-new tale of DC's fiercest warrior

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DC

A New Graphic Novel for Young Adults

JUNE

HARDCORE STATION.
DEEP SPACE.

BOOM

"I BET THEY HEARD THAT ONE ON EARTH-13."

WHAM

WHAM

OUCH. THAT'S GONNA LEAVE A MARK.

SHOULD WE STEP IN, GENERAL CHACAL?

NOT A CHANCE...

LET 'EM FIGHT!

C'MON, LOBO! GET 'IM WITH AN UPPERCUT!

PREVIOUSLY, IN *ACTION COMICS* #1064, *SUPERMAN* #13 AND *ACTION COMICS* #1065... METROPOLIS IS UNDER SIEGE! AN ARMY OF CZARNIAN FIGHTERS HAS BEEN UNLEASHED UPON THE CITY OF TOMORROW BY THE VILLAIN BRAINIAC... BUT TO WHAT END? WITH SUPERMAN'S FAMILY CAPTURED BY THE INVASION FORCE, THE MAN OF STEEL MUST TURN TO AN UNLIKELY ALLY FOR HELP...

HOUSE OF BRAINIAC

PART 4 LAST SONS

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PAUL KAMINSKI

Superman created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster. Superboy created by Jerry Siegel. Supergirl based on the characters created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster. By special arrangement with the Jerry Siegel family.

LOBO, STOP!

WHOOSSHH

NO WAY, SUPER-JERK!

THIS FIGHT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME COMING!

KRASH

ZZZPTT!

YOU CHEAT!

WE CAN'T KEEP DOING THIS...

IF WE KEEP THIS UP, HARDCORE STATION WILL BE DESTROYED...

LET'S TAKE THIS FIGHT *OUTSIDE!*

DOOO

LOBO, LISTEN TO ME.

THIS ISN'T A GAME. CHACAL IS *USING YOU.*

DO YOU REALLY WANT TO WORK FOR *BRAINIAC?*

KRASH

KRAK

THE MAIN MAN WORKS FOR NO ONE!

THEN WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

WHY ARE YOU SIDING WITH THE CZARNIANS?!

WHAT? ARE YOU THE ONLY GUY WHO GETS TO BE HEAD OF HIS OWN *GANG?!*

AFTER THESE YEARS OF RIDING *SOLO,* MAYBE IT'S TIME I TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT, OKAY?

KSSH

WHAT THE FRAG?!

I DON'T NEED YER HELP, GENERAL CHACAL!

MY CHAINS WERE FORGED IN THE FIRES OF APOKOLIPS, PAL. THEY AIN'T EASY TO BREAK, AND THE ***MISSION*** WAS TO BRING SUPERMAN BACK TO BRAINIAC, SO HE'D FREE THE REST OF MY GANG.

HEH, I MEAN ***YOUR*** GANG, LOBO.

YOU GOT THE STUFF, KID.

BRMMM

NOW ***WE*** DO TOO. C'MON...

LET'S ROLL.

VVRRRROMMMMM

HEY, BRAINY...YOU READ?

YES, GENERAL CHACAL?

WE'RE EN ROUTE TO YOU...

"...AND WE GOT THE KRYPTONIAN."

"THE CITIZENS OF YOUR WORLD SAW MY HOARDING OF CITIES AND KNOWLEDGE AS AN ACT OF DESTRUCTION.

"BUT I WAS SAVING THEM. ENSURING THEY HAD A LEGACY OF GREATNESS AS A PART OF *ME*. IF ONLY SUPERMAN HAD NOT STOPPED ME YEARS AGO, WE WOULD NEVER BE HERE TODAY.

"SUPERMAN'S MIND, LIKE MOST OTHERS, WAS TOO SMALL TO UNDERSTAND MY MOVES. THE CURSE OF *GENIUS*.

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, *LENA LUTHOR?*

YOUR FATHER SOUGHT TO HIDE YOU FROM US.

HE UNDERSTOOD THAT YOUR UNIQUE MIND WAS A GIFT...AND A *WEAPON.*

YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG *ME.*

I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING FROM WHEN I WAS WITH YOU. *NOTHING.*

YOU WILL SOON ENOUGH.

THIS ALL STARTED WITH YOU.

IT IS FITTING THAT YOU BEAR WITNESS TO WHAT WE BRING INTO THE UNIVERSE...

"...AND NOW THERE IS *NO ONE* WHO CAN STOP ME."

ARE YOU INSANE?!

YOU'RE ONE TO TALK!

THE BOTTLE CITY OF COLU. ATOP BRAINIAC'S HIVESHIP.

NOW HOLD ON, BALDY!

CRUNCH

SMASH

TRRSSSSSHHHH

NOT MY FINEST LANDING, BUT THAT WILL DO.

DON'T GET ANY IDEAS.

PERISH THE THOUGHT, SUPERGIRL.

BRAINIAC'S HOMEWORLD WAS DESTROYED BY THE OMEGA TITANS. WE WERE THERE. WE SAW IT.*

BRAINIAC MUST HAVE COLLECTED THIS CITY LONG BEFORE ITS DESTRUCTION. A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE?

WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT? *YOU* WERE WORKING WITH HIM...

*IN *JUSTICE LEAGUE: NO JUSTICE* --PK

HARDLY.

I WAS DOING WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE TO ENSURE OUR *SURVIVAL.*

WHEN I RESURRECTED BRAINIAC WITH THE LEGION OF DOOM...

"...I HAD TO GO INSIDE HIS VERY MIND TO DO IT.

"WHEN I WAS THERE, I SAW SOMETHING...

"...SOMETHING THAT DISTURBED ME GREATLY. BRAINIAC PROFESSES A VAST, COMPLETIONIST CATALOG OF KNOWLEDGE... BUT THERE ARE ***HOLES*** IN THAT CATALOG THAT ARE DRIVING HIM ***INSANE.***"

AND NATURE ABHORS A VACUUM.

EXACTLY. BRAINIAC HAS ABSORBED ALL THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE UNIVERSE, TIME, SPACE, AND BEYOND, AND BECAUSE BRAINIAC DENIES THE ***TRUTH*** OF WHAT HE IS MISSING...HIS MIND HAS FOUND SOMETHING TO PATCH THE HOLES...

...A NEW CREATURE OF DEATH AND DESTRUCTION...

...AND ***NO ONE*** SHOULD HAVE THAT KIND OF KNOWLEDGE.

YOU AND THE OTHERS LIKE YOU MAY DOUBT MY RECENT ***CHANGE,*** BUT I REALLY HAVE TRIED TO WALK THE NOBLE PATH.

AND I DO NOT WISH TO SEE OTHERS SUFFER... ESPECIALLY ALL OF CREATION...

I THOUGHT WITH THESE DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF HIM THAT BRAINIAC WAS JUST, LIKE...

...BUILDING A FAMILY FOR HIMSELF.

DON'T BE SO NAIVE.

HE'S CREATING--

THAT'S ENOUGH, LUTHOR.

YOU HARDLY KNOW WHEREOF YOU SPEAK.

AND NOW THAT WE HAVE THE LAST SON OF KRYPTON, WE NO LONGER NEED *YOU* OR THE *ARGOAN* TO ACHIEVE OUR AIMS.

I MIGHT NOT BE AT FULL STRENGTH, BUT IF YOU THINK I'M GOING WITHOUT A FIGHT...

...THEN ***YOU*** DON'T KNOW AS MUCH AS YOU ***THINK!***

TAKE ME BACK TO BRAINIAC PRIME, ***DRONE.*** I NEED TO SPEAK TO HIM.

YOU BELIEVE WE EVER TRUSTED YOU? WE KNEW YOU WOULD BETRAY US THE FIRST CHANCE YOU HAD.

HOWEVER, YOU ARE NO LONGER NEEDED. YOU HAVE SERVED YOUR PURPOSE FOR US. YOU WILL NOT STOP US.

YOUR *DEATH IS NOW,* LUTHOR.

ZAP

ZAP

ZAP

GET DOWN!

VRIL DOX?

GET READY, MOTHER. AFTER WE PICK UP THE REST OF OUR LITTLE *FAMILY,* WE'RE GOING *UP.*

MOTHER?

WHAT'RE *YOU* DOING HERE?

I CAN STOP AND PONTIFICATE OR WE CAN GET MOVING.

JUST SURPRISED, THAT'S ALL. LAST TIME I SAW *YOU,* YOU THREATENED TO DESTROY ALL OF EARTH.

I HAVE A MORE IMPORTANT MISSION RIGHT NOW...

"THE DEATH OF MY *FATHER.*"

I SHOULD APPLAUD HENSHAW'S DESIGN, METALLO. IT IS *INSPIRED.*

BUT YOUR METAL WAS NEEDED ELSE-WHERE.

IT IS *TIME,* MY *HIVE.* THE REASON I SEARCHED TIME AND SPACE FOR YOU HAS ARRIVED.

I KNOW SOME OF YOU WERE UNHAPPY BEING PULLED INTO MY PLANS.

TO GIVE UP YOUR OWN FREEDOM SO THAT WE COULD *SHARE* WHAT WE HAVE ALL LEARNED ACROSS OUR MANY LIVES.

...BUT TO DO THAT I NEEDED UNIMAGINABLE *POWER.*

THAT'S WHERE *WE* COME IN.

WHAT WE DO NOW WILL TAKE ALL OUR MENTAL ENERGIES COMBINED TO CREATE SOMETHING *GREATER* THAN OUR OWN GENIUSES...

SUPERJERK DELIVERY!

DON'T FORGET TO TIP YOUR DRIVER!

WHERE IS MY FAMILY, BRAINIAC?

ALLOW ME TO REUNITE YOU.

YOU, SUPERMAN. I HAVE WATCHED *YOU* FOR *YEARS*. EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE OTHERS LIKE YOU, *YOUR* POWERS ARE DIFFERENT.

I USED TO BELIEVE YOUR EXTRAORDINARY ABILITIES WERE THE RESULT OF KRYPTONIAN EXPOSURE TO EARTH'S YELLOW SUN... BUT IT IS SO MUCH MORE THAN THAT, ISN'T IT?

I AM BEGINNING TO SEE WHERE ELSE YOU DRAW YOUR STRENGTH FROM...

SUPERMAN! HELP!

STAY CALM, KIDS! I'LL GET YOU OUT OF THERE!

BRAINIAC, LET THEM GO. YOU ONLY WANT ME.

AH!

TZ

WE ARE PAST WHAT I *WANT* OR *NEED*.

THIS IS SO MUCH BIGGER THAN THAT NOW.

OW! HEY!

TZ

TZ

TZ

MR. LUTHOR, WHERE *ARE* YOU?

BUT I UNDERSTAND THIS WILL ALSO MEAN SOME SACRIFICES OF MY OWN.

LET US BEGIN.

EEEEIIII!

AAAAHHHH!

KAKRAKAKAKRAKATKAKRAKAKAKRAKAT

IT...IS... WORKING...

KRAKAKAKRAKA

AAAHHHH!

SUPERMAN!

KAKAKRAKA-ET!

RISE...

...MY QUEEN.

THAT'S WHAT THIS WAS ALL ABOUT? OLD SMARTY-PANTS WANTED A LADY VERSION OF HIMSELF?

WHO CARES? OUR WORK HERE IS DONE. A DEAL IS A DEAL. BRAINIAC, YOU GOT YOUR POWER.

IT'S TIME LOBO AND I HIT THE ROAD AND TAKE OUR PEOPLE WITH US.

HELL YEAH.

TIME TO PARTY.

WAIT.

THERE IS ANOTHER VALUE THAT YOU BRING, GENERAL.

A CRUCIAL ONE.

THERE IT IS.

THE BETRAYAL. *KNEW IT.*

BRING IT ON, YA BASTICH!

HOUSE OF LOBO VERSUS THE *HOUSE OF BRAINIAC!* MY CREW AND I CAN TAKE YOU BIG-BRAIN NERDS!

YEARS AGO, WHEN I FOUND YOUR WORLD AND STOLE YOUR CITY OF CHAOS, I *ALSO* STUDIED YOUR *DNA*.

YOU ARE INDESTRUCTIBLE. *IMMORTAL.*

BUT WHEN LOBO HERE COMMITTED HIS CZARNIAN GENOCIDE, HE PROVED YOU *COULD* DIE.

THK

THUK

NOW THE POWER OF THE KRYPTONIAN AND THE OTHERS FROM HIS WORLD HAVE ALLOWED *HER* CREATION.

MY GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT. MY LEGACY TO THE COSMOS.

BUT SHE NEEDS *FUEL* TO BE COMPLETE.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE, GENERAL...

HHSSSSSSS

TAKE THIS, YA B--

FRAK

FRAG US! SHE JUST ATE HIS--

WHAK

RUN!

GASP

BRAINIAC... WHAT DID YOU MAKE?

OH MY GOD...

AND I THOUGHT I WAS BRUTAL...

YOU ARE PERFECTION, MY QUEEN.

WHAT DO YOU NEED?

MORE...

...POWER...

TO BE CONTINUED IN *ACTION COMICS* #1066:

LONG LIVE THE BRAINIAC QUEEN.

DC Comics Presents

RAMONA & ME

Brittany Holzherr Writer **June Brigman** Penciller **Roy Richardson** Inker **Trish Mulvihill** Colorist **Janice Chiang** Letterer

ONE OF THE BEST THINGS ABOUT WORKING IN COMICS IS DISCOVERING ASPECTS OF ITS HISTORY YOU NEVER KNEW BEFORE. SOME PEOPLE SAY WOMEN ARE FINALLY MAKING THEIR PRESENCE KNOWN, BUT THEY COULDN'T BE MORE WRONG. WOMEN HAVE ***ALWAYS*** BEEN IN COMICS-- YOU JUST NEEDED TO KNOW WHERE TO LOOK.

BACK IN 2017, OUR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, MARIE JAVINS, FOUND HERSELF AT BALTIMORE COMIC-CON IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LEGENDARY ***RAMONA FRADON,*** WHO WAS DELIGHTING CROWDS OF FANS WITH HER COMMISSIONS.

RAMONA WAS JUST ABOUT TO TURN 91 AND HADN'T LOST A STEP IN HER ART. MARIE AND I IMMEDIATELY AGREED THAT RAMONA SHOULD BE WORKING AT DC AGAIN. AN EMAIL LED TO A PHONE CALL AND THE REST WAS HISTORY.

ALWAYS PROMPT BUT HER OWN WORST CRITIC, RAMONA CONSISTENTLY APOLOGIZED FOR HER "LAZINESS" EVEN AS SHE WOULD IMMEDIATELY TURN IN SKETCHES FOR REVIEW ALONG WITH A HILARIOUS POLITICAL CARTOON. I COULDN'T HELP BUT RUN THE ART AROUND THE OFFICE AND SHARE IN LAUGHS WITH MY COWORKERS AS WE MARVELED AT HER TALENT.

COVID CAME AND TURNED THE WORLD AND COMICS UPSIDE DOWN. AS MUCH AS THE PANDEMIC TORE US APART, IT ALSO BROUGHT SOME OF US CLOSER, SERVING AS A REMINDER OF HOW IMPORTANT COMPANIONSHIP IS.

RAMONA AND I STAYED IN TOUCH AND EVENTUALLY SHE INVITED ME OVER. IN ANTICIPATION, I ASKED HER IF SHE MISSED ANY FOOD FROM HER TIME LIVING IN MANHATTAN. SHE IMMEDIATELY ASKED FOR A SPECIFIC DESSERT. TO SATISFY HER FAMOUS SWEET TOOTH, I DROVE UPSTATE WITH SFOGLIATELLA IN HAND.

RAMONA GREETED ME LIKE A ***LONG-LOST FRIEND,*** WHICH LED TO MANY MORE VISITS. WE IMMEDIATELY BONDED OVER OUR SHARED LOVE OF COMIC STRIPS AND THE CITY, BUT SOON THE CONVERSATION MOVED PAST COMICS AND ONTO LIFE IN GENERAL.

I WAS DELIGHTED TO DISCOVER THAT RAMONA WASN'T JUST AN ARTIST WITH HER PEN BUT WITH HER ***WORDS*** TOO. HER STORIES PAINTED A PICTURE OF A LIFE LIVED TO ITS FULLEST. AFTER HOURS OF TALKING--WITH OCCASIONAL PAUSES TO GIVE PETS TO HER DOG, CHARLIE--I ALWAYS LEFT RAMONA'S HOME INSPIRED AND REINVIGORATED TO MAKE MY MARK ON THE WORLD OF COMICS LIKE SHE DID.

AT THE BEGINNING OF 2024, RAMONA ANNOUNCED HER FORMAL ***RETIREMENT*** FROM DRAWING AFTER SEVENTY-PLUS YEARS IN THE BUSINESS.

DURING OUR LAST VISIT, I STRUGGLED TO FIND THE RIGHT WORDS TO SAY GOODBYE TO A FRIEND, BUT HER WARM SMILE SERVED AS A COMFORT. WE SPOKE OF THE FUTURE AND HOW EXCITED SHE WAS TO FINALLY SEE ***METAMORPHO*** ON THE BIG SCREEN. I'M SORRY SHE WILL NEVER GET THE CHANCE, BUT I KNOW THE PARTS OF HERSELF SHE POURED INTO HER BELOVED CO-CREATION WILL SHINE THROUGH.

RAMONA WOULD ALWAYS REMARK THAT WOMEN IN COMICS WERE LARGELY OVERLOOKED, BUT WITH STORIES LIKE THIS, I HOPE THEIR MEMORY AND CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE KEPT ALIVE FOR YEARS TO COME.

SEE YOU IN THE FUNNY PAPERS, RAMONA.

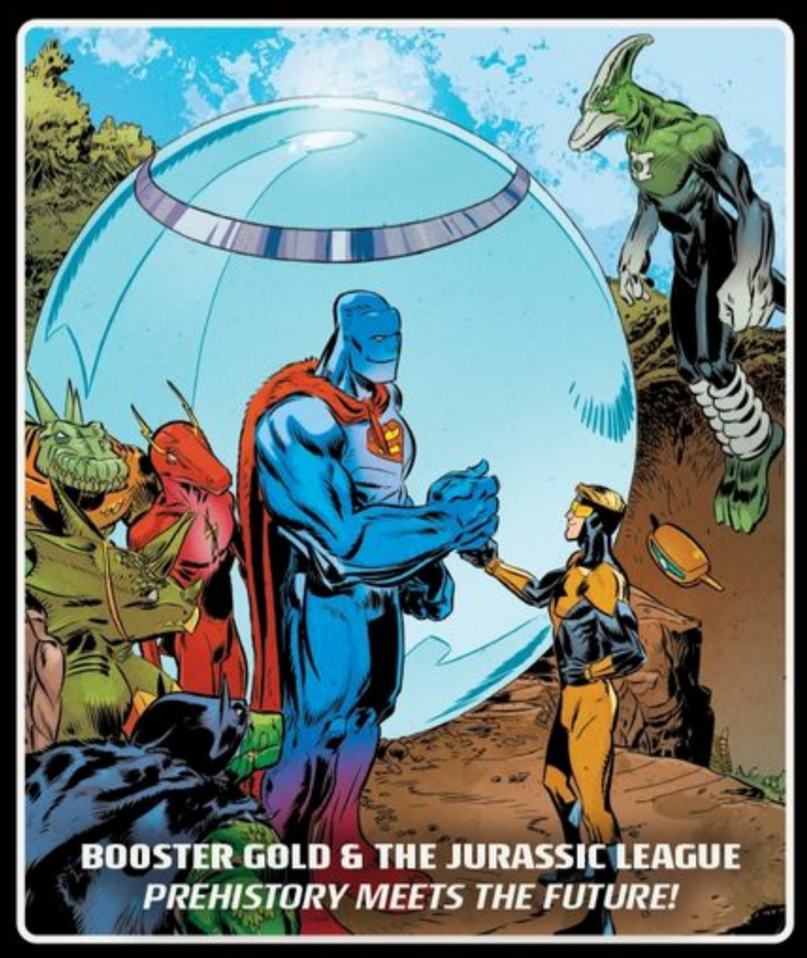
"Mom saw the whole world through her creative imagination. She could make faces and characters from trees or rocks, was awed by light playing on a wall, and saw patterns that I would never have seen. Drawing was her anchor and her best friend. She had beautiful, capable hands that could draw, build, upholster, cook, craft, and comfort. She was my Wonder Woman, for sure." – Amy Fradon

For more quotes remembering Ramona, please visit: DC.com/remembering-ramona

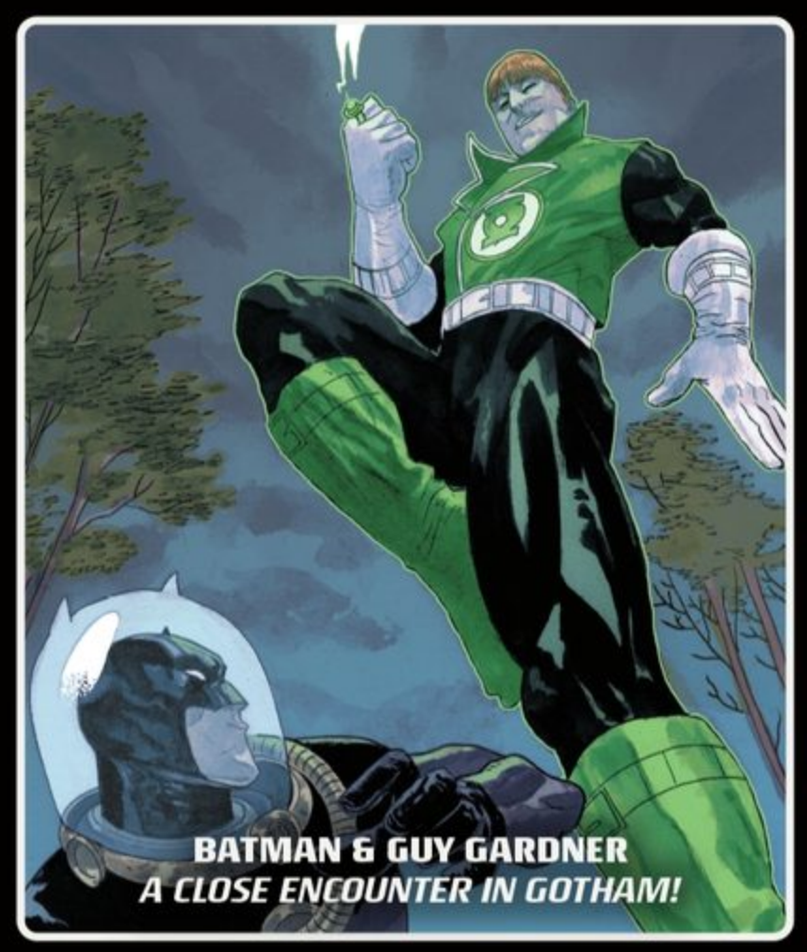
A BOLD NEW DIRECTION FEATURING HEROIC TEAM-UPS!

BATMAN
THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD #13

DEADMAN & NIGHTWING
A NIGHTMARE ROAD TRIP!



BOOSTER GOLD & THE JURASSIC LEAGUE
PREHISTORY MEETS THE FUTURE!



BATMAN & GUY GARDNER
A CLOSE ENCOUNTER IN GOTHAM!

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DC

MAY

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

THE BOY WONDER

INTERVIEW WITH JUNI BA

Visionary writer/artist Juni Ba makes his mark on the timeless story of Batman and Robin in *The Boy Wonder*. When Batman is forced to leave Gotham, a demon begins stalking its dark alleys. Can Damian Wayne learn to battle alongside his adoptive brothers and learn what the mantle of Robin really means? DC Nation sat down with Ba to discuss this five-issue series.

The DCU has such a rich universe of heroes and villains. How did you settle on Robin as the focus for your first story at DC?

I already had ideas for it before DC ever hired me on anything! It was very specifically a personal project of working on a preestablished concept I found interesting. As to why Robin, I think it's because he was the embodiment of the childlike fun at the heart of superheroes. He's a kid who gets to go on crazy adventures with a cool hero, and together they do what's right. This story, though, is about going on adventures with the other child heroes, learning from them, finding solidarity, family, and a way to even surpass the original role your mantle entails.

Why did you specifically choose Damian as the main Robin in *The Boy Wonder*, teaming up with a different former Robin each issue?

Probably because I love him the most. He's such an annoying brat, but also a kid who has to overcome a lot of issues, and I sympathized a lot with that. He's the most recent Robin and he's a great surrogate for the audience to discover this world and his predecessors. And most of all: he's not at all a beacon of perfection like most DC Super Heroes are expected to be, and that makes him a great character to explore this idea of feeling inadequate. Not realizing your own potential as something simply different.

As both a writer and artist, how is your style bringing something to Robin that fans have never seen before?

I think I'm really tapping into a storytelling style that mixes cartoony and character-focused form. It may look cartoony, but I think I managed to find an angle for every team-up story that delves into the complexities of the characters, Damian especially of course, and makes for a great synthesis of these characters for people to discover.

It's designed to be accessible to anyone and especially people with no prior knowledge. So for those who know this world, it's a great summary and a new adventure with some fun twists on familiar things. And for those who don't even know what the Batman world is like, this is for you. You're welcome and encouraged to get in!

DON'T MISS
THE BOY WONDER #1,
ON SALE NOW!

DC BLACK LABEL
Ages 13+

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